SPIDER-MAN 2099

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... THAT REMAIN DEPRESSINGLY THE SAME.
HALT!
AS AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PUBLIC EYE, WE'RE ORDERING YOU TO HALT!
GET THOSE IDIOT KIDS OUT OF THE WAY!
YOU BRATS IN THE WHISPER 3000-- VACATE THIS AREA IMMEDIATELY!
ALL SUCH VEHICLES ARE FORBIDDEN IN THE INNER CITY! YOUR REGISTRATION HAS BEEN NOTED! RETURN HOME AT ONCE, WHERE YOUR VEHICLE WILL BE CONFISCATED!
MOVE!!
PETER DAVID WRITER
RICK LEONARDI PENCILER
AL WILLIAMSON INKER
STEVE BUCCELLATO COLORIST
RICK PARKER LETTERER
TOM DEFALCO, EDITOR IN CHIEF
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Begin the Future History of...

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STAN LEE PRESENTS
SPIDER-MAN 2099

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SPIDER-MAN
2099

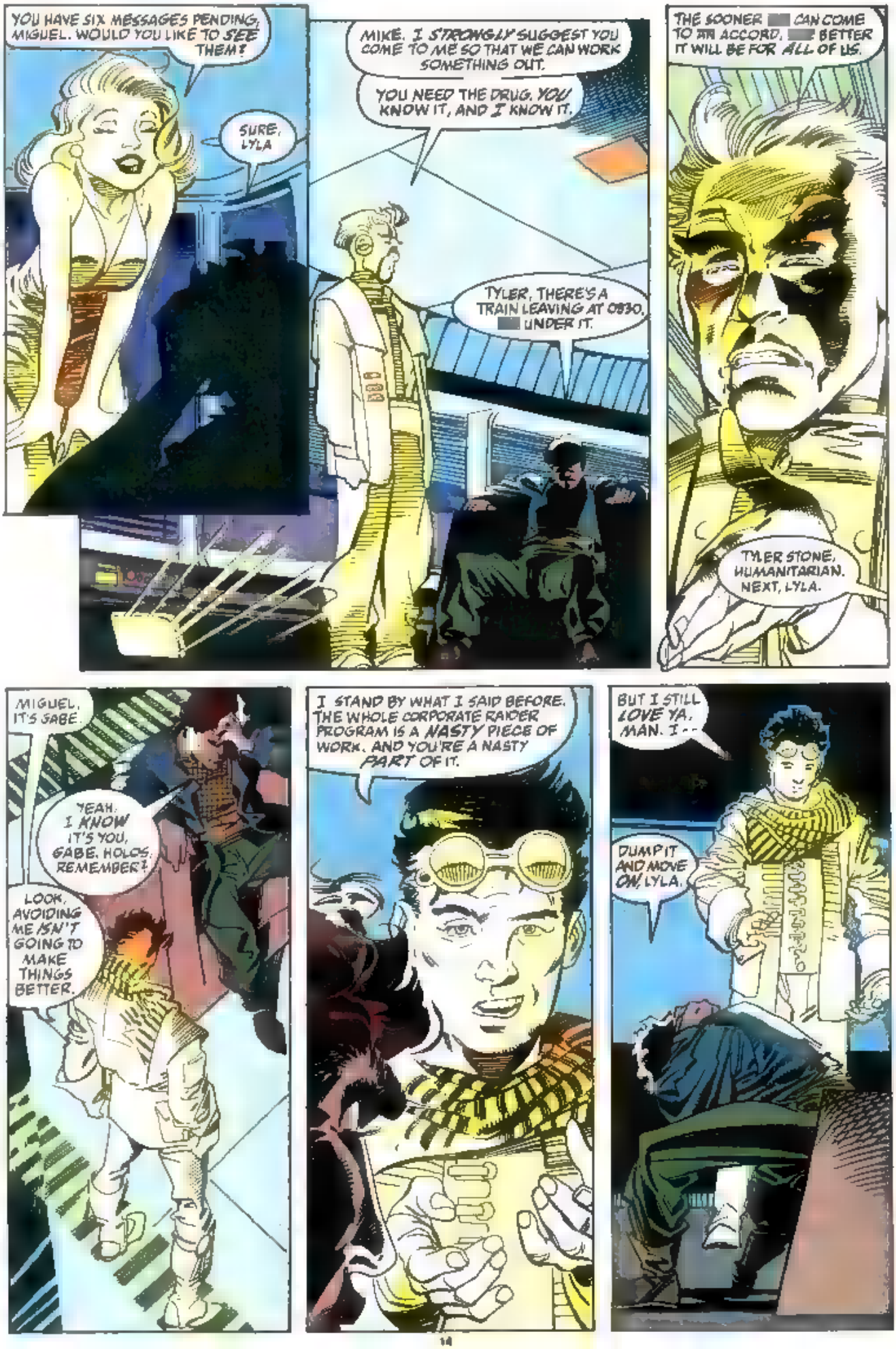
THIS IS YOUR FINAL WARNING! SURRENDER INSTANTLY OR WE WILL USE DEADLY FORCE!
WHAT THE BLAZES--!
HOW DOES HE MOVE THAT FAST?!
WE'RE HERE TO ARREST HIM, NOT ADMIRE HIM! HE WENT BETWEEN THOSE BUILDINGS! MALIK, WITH ME! THE REST OF YOU, CUT HIM OFF FROM THE OTHER SIDE!
OKAY, MALIK. PROCEED WITH CAUTION. ALCHEMAX WANTS HIM ALIVE IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.
CAN THE JOKES, MALIK. WATCH THE DRAFTS-- THEY'RE REALLY NASTY UP HERE.
I BET THEY DO, SARGE. AND I WANT ME ALIVE IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.
NOW WHERE DID HE GO?
SARGE! ABOVE YOU!

TARGET ACQUIRED! ALL UNITS, CONVERGE ON MY SIGNAL!
THERE HE GOES! ON MARK, AND--
FIRE!
THOSE WERE WARNING SHOTS! DON'T MAKE US HURT YOU!
CHOOM
CHOOM
SWING AROUND! MALIK, BRING IT AROUND!
WHAT'S HE DOING?! HE'S IN FREEFALL!
HE'LL KILL HIMSELF!

HE'S NOT KILLING HIMSELF, YOU IDIOT! ONCE HE'S DROPPED OUT OF RANGE, HE'LL BREAK HIS FALL WITH THOSE WEBBED AIRFOILS OF HIS!
PUGLISI! ESTAVEZ! COME IN! ARE ANY OF YOU ON HIM?
THIS IS ESTAVEZ, SARGE! TARGET ACQUIRED!
HE'S TRYING TO CHANGE COURSE. BUT I'VE GOT HIM IN MY SI--
OOOOF!
ARRRRRHH!!
DON'T PLAY GAMES WITH HIM, ESTAVEZ! SHOOT!

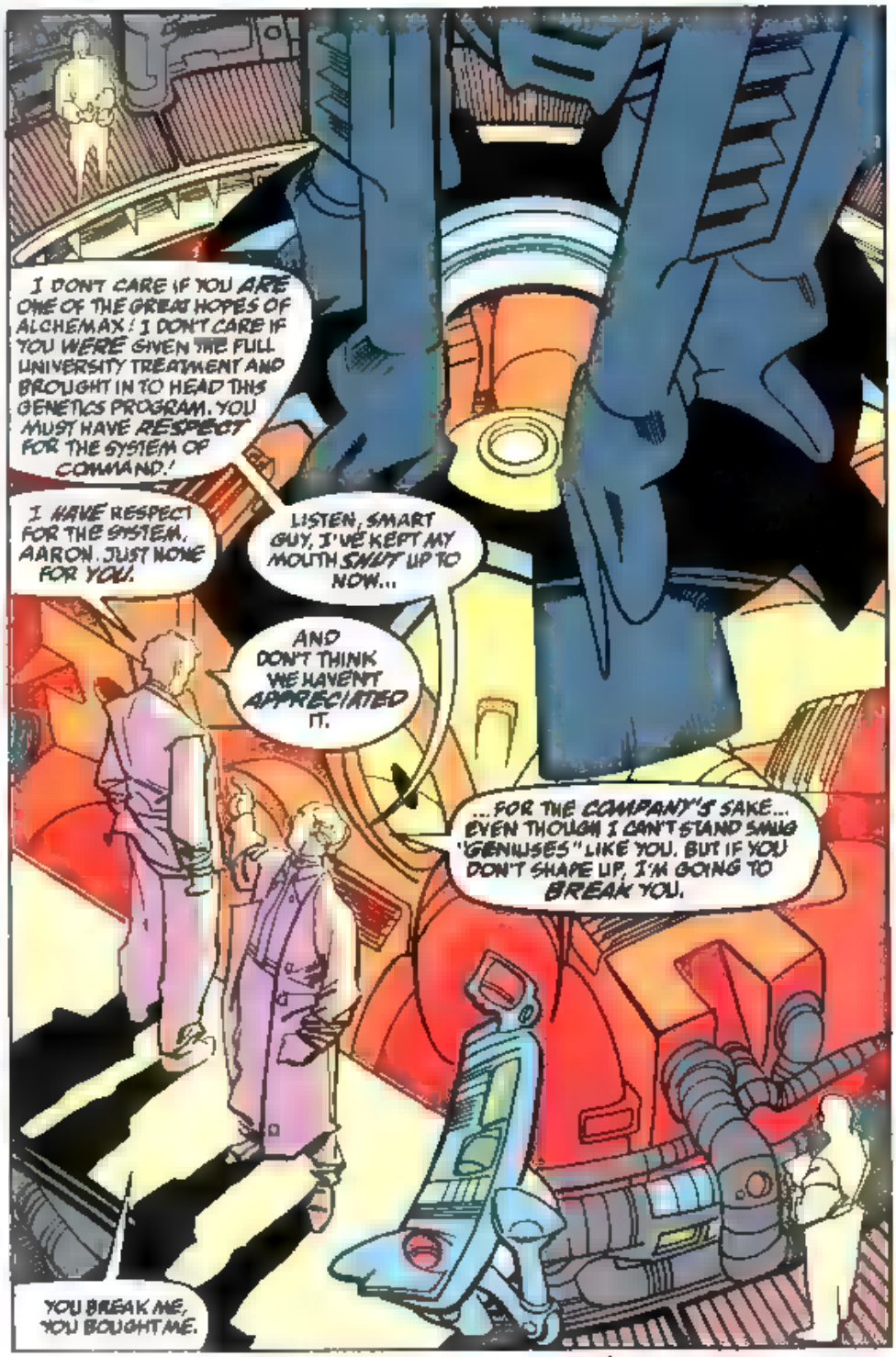
EVERYONE OUT OF THE WAY!
MY FACE! I'M BLEEDING TO DEATH!! YOU CUT MY FACE! YOU TRIED TO KILL ME! YOU--
JUST SHUT UP WOULD YA, PLEASE?
DID YOU SEE IT?
NEVER SAW A FLYBOY CRASH BEFORE.
PUBLIC EYE GOT A BLACK EYE, IF Y'ASK--
ALCHEMAX
WHOA! CHECK IT!
IT'S ESTAVEZ, AWRIGHT! GET HIM TO THE NEAREST DOCS IN A BOX!
WHERE'D HE GO, ESTY?
THAT WAY, SOMEWHERE. I DUNNO.
OKAY, MEN. PROCEED WITH CAUTION. HE COULD BE...
ANYWHERE.
AW, SHOCK.

BABYLON TOWERS.
A SUBSIDIARY OF ALCHEMAX.
AHH!
LIGHTS TO ONE QUARTER!
HUNH.
BETTER.
MUCH BETTER.
GOOD EVENING, MIGUEL.
THE TIME IS 0133 HOURS.
OUTDOOR TEMPERATURE IS 54.° AIR IS PARTLY BREATHABLE. FORECAST FOR THE NEXT TWO DAYS IS OCCASIONAL CLOUDINESS WITH A 50% CHANCE OF RAIN.
FIFTY PERCENT. THAT MEANS MAYBE IT'LL RAIN, MAYBE IT WON'T.
YOUR PERSONAL BIO READINGS INDICATE ACCELERATED HEARTBEAT AND PULSE ABOVE THE NORM. YOU'VE BEEN EXERTING YOURSELF.
TELL ME ABOUT IT.


YOU HAVE SIX MESSAGES PENDING, MIGUEL. WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THEM?
SURE, LYLA
MIKE. I STRONGLY SUGGEST YOU COME TO ME SO THAT WE CAN WORK SOMETHING OUT.
YOU NEED THE DRUG. YOU KNOW IT, AND I KNOW IT.
TYLER, THERE'S A TRAIN LEAVING AT 0830, [redacted] UNDER IT.
THE SOONER [redacted] CAN COME TO AN ACCORD, [redacted] BETTER IT WILL BE FOR ALL OF US.
TYLER STONE, HUMANITARIAN. NEXT, LYLA.
MIGUEL, IT'S GABE.
YEAH. I KNOW IT'S YOU, GABE. HOLOS. REMEMBER?
LOOK. AVOIDING ME ISN'T GOING TO MAKE THINGS BETTER.
I STAND BY WHAT I SAID BEFORE. THE WHOLE CORPORATE RAIDER PROGRAM IS A NASTY PIECE OF WORK. AND YOU'RE A NASTY PART OF IT.
BUT I STILL LOVE YA, MAN. I--
DUMP IT AND MOVE ON, LYLA.

MIGUEL? [redacted] YOU THERE? C'MON, HONEY. PICK UP.
NO?
LOOK... MIG... I...
I'M REALLY FRIGHTENED FOR YOU.
THE OTHER DAY, [redacted] YOU WERE STRUNG OUT ON THE DRUGS... I'VE NEVER BEEN SO SCARED...
AND NOW IT'S... IT'S LIKE YOU VANISHED OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH.
MIGUEL, I'M YOUR FIANCÉE DON'T LEAVE ME HANGING AFTER--
DUMP IT.
THE REMAINING [redacted] ARE ALSO FROM DANA.
DUMP 'EM ALL.
MIGUEL, YOUR PRESENT BEHAVIOR [redacted] NOT WITHIN NORMAL PROGRAMMING PARAMETERS. YOU'VE DIVERTED FROM YOUR STANDARD PATTERN OF DOMESTIC ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES.
YOU'VE MADE NO ENTRIES [redacted] YOUR PERSONAL JOURNAL FOR FIVE DAYS. YOU--
MY JOURNAL?
MY JOURNAL, HUH?
ALL RIGHT, LYLA. JOURNAL MODE, THEN.
TAKE THIS DOWN.

LOOK, O'HARA, YOU MAY BE THE PROJECT HEAD, BUT I'M THE ONE WHO ANSWERS TO MR. STONE, WHICH MEANS YOU ANSWER TO ME.
I'LL TRY TO STICK TO ONE-SYLLABLE WORDS, THEN.

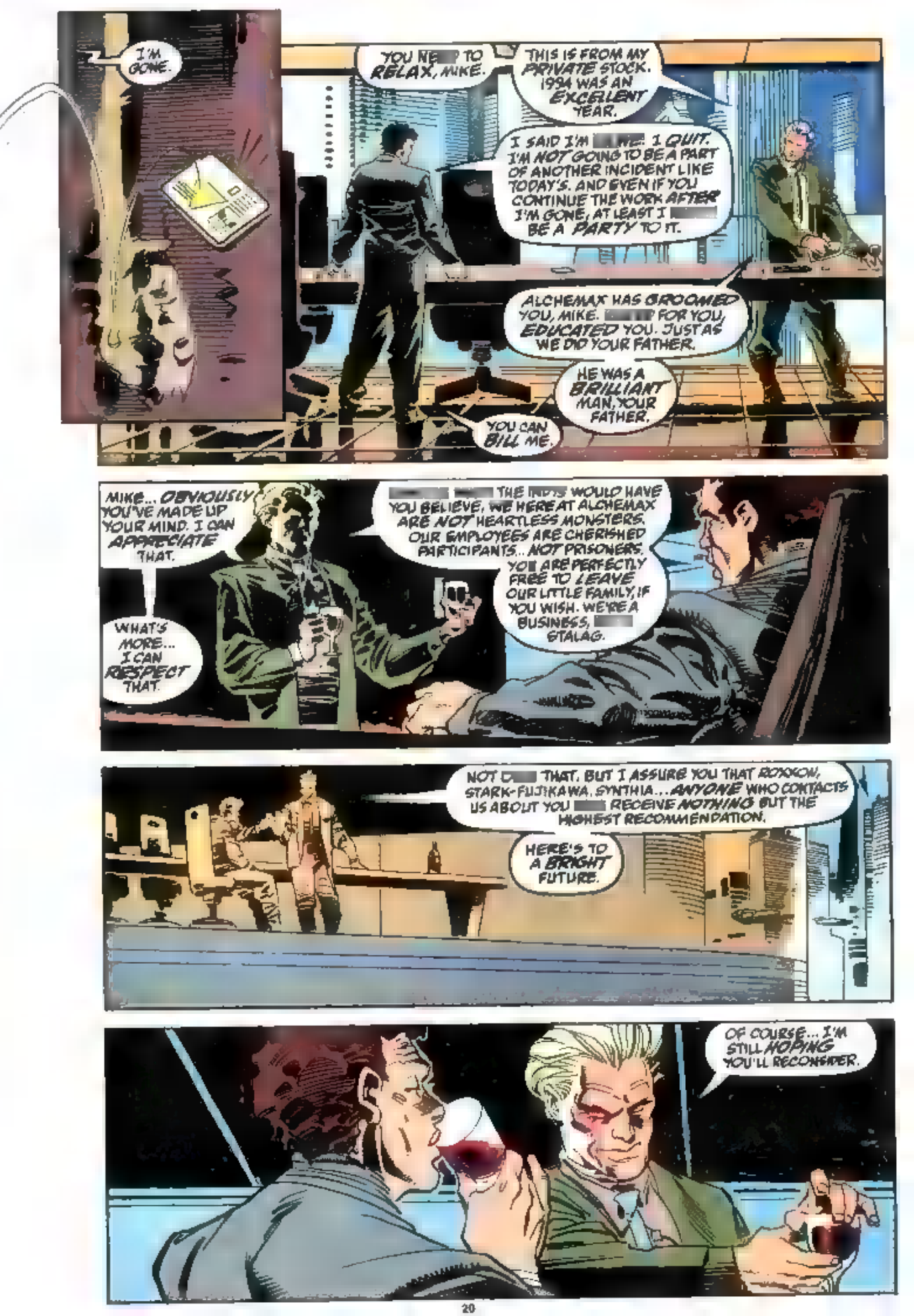

I DON'T CARE IF YOU ARE ONE OF THE GREAT HOPES OF ALCHEMAX! I DON'T CARE IF YOU WERE GIVEN THE FULL UNIVERSITY TREATMENT AND BROUGHT IN TO HEAD THIS GENETICS PROGRAM. YOU MUST HAVE RESPECT FOR THE SYSTEM OF COMMAND!
I HAVE RESPECT FOR THE SYSTEM, AARON. JUST NONE FOR YOU.
LISTEN, SMART GUY, I'VE KEPT MY MOUTH SHUT UP TO NOW...
AND DON'T THINK WE HAVEN'T APPRECIATED IT.
...FOR THE COMPANY'S SAKE... EVEN THOUGH I CAN'T STAND SMUG "GENIUSES" LIKE YOU. BUT IF YOU DON'T SHAPE UP, I'M GOING TO BREAK YOU.
YOU BREAK ME, YOU BOUGHT ME.

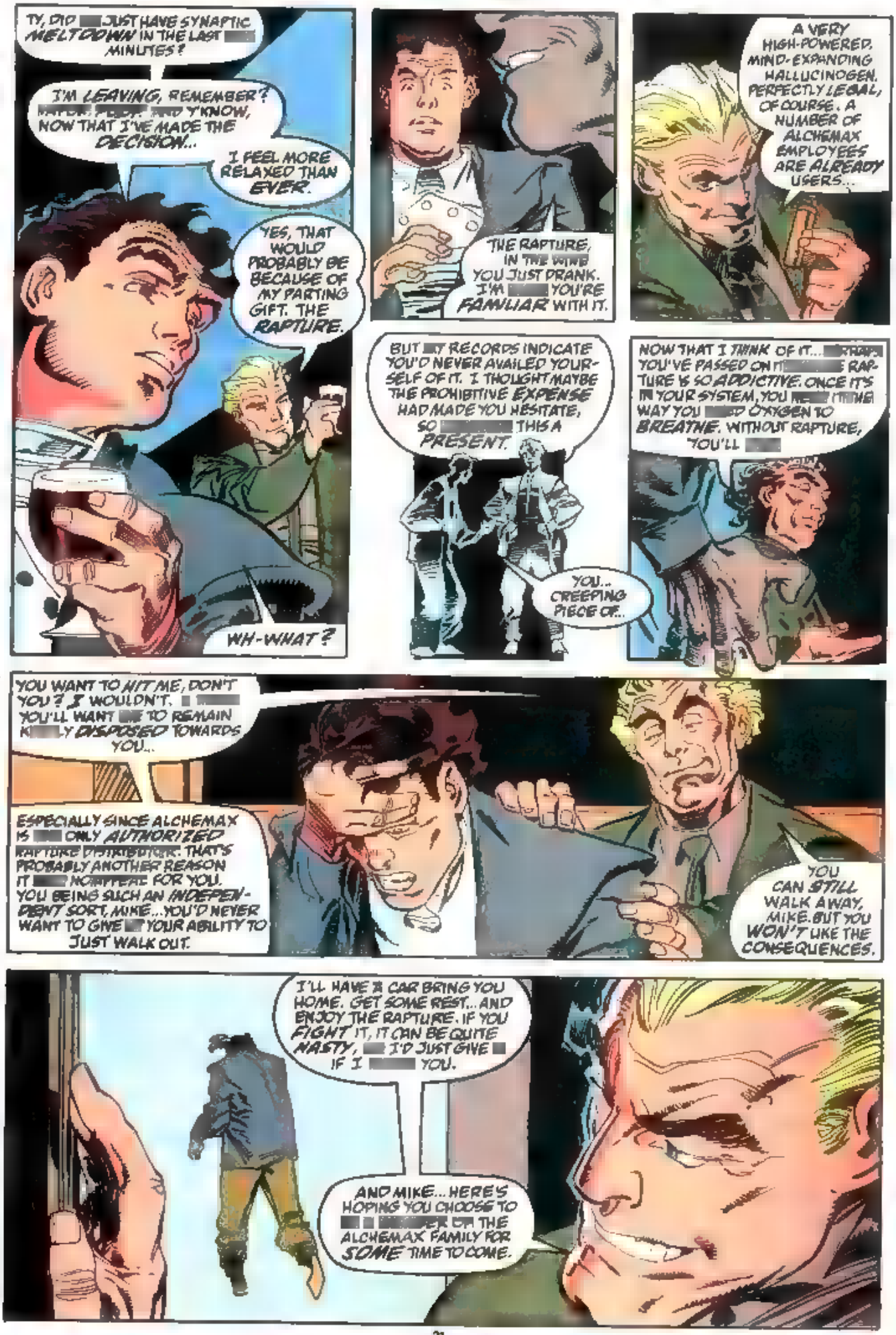
AARON, AARON, AARON... EVEN YOU CAN'T DENY HOW [redacted] THE WORK'S BEEN PROGRESSING.
OF COURSE NOT, BUT--
WE'VE ACHIEVED TERRIFIC SUCCESS AT ALTERING THE GENETIC STRUCTURE OF TEST ANIMALS.
[redacted] I'VE EVEN FOUND SOME QUALITY RESEARCH MATERIAL FOR INSPIRATION!
HERE. FEAST YOUR ORBS.

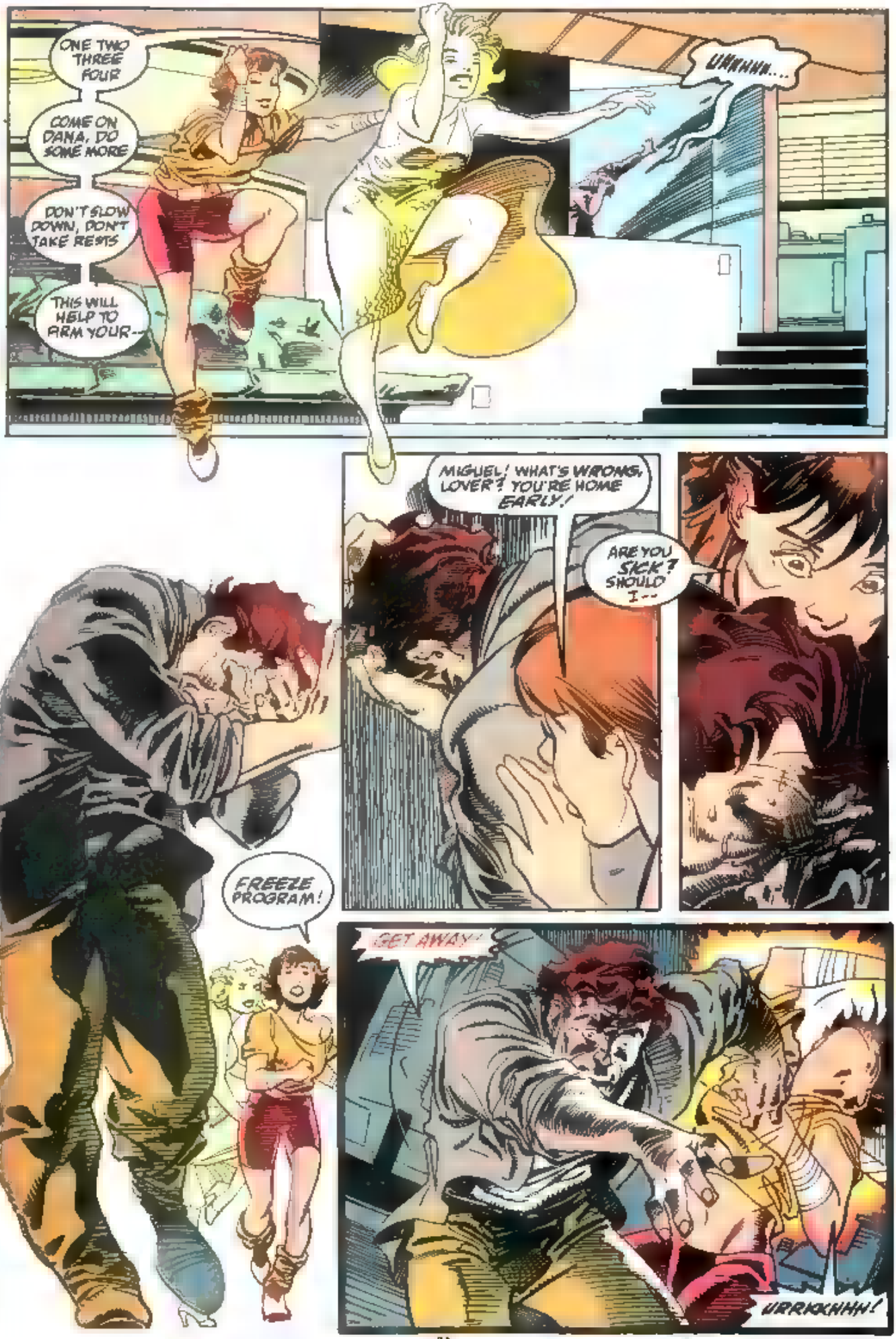
HIS NAME WAS SPIDER-MAN. ONE OF THE PREMIER BOYS FROM THE OLD HEROIC AGE, 'ROUND THE TURN OF THE CENTURY.
PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH OF A SPIDER.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "PROPORTIONATE?"
IT MEANS [redacted] DIDN'T GET A SWELLED HEAD ABOUT IT.
YOU WANT AN IDEAL CORPORATE RAIDER? IMAGINE ONE THAT COULD SCALE WALLS, JUMP 50 FEET. STRONG, AGILE.
THAT'S THE DIRECTION WE'RE GOING. WE JUST CAN'T GO TOO QUICKLY. OTHERWISE...
OTHERWISE WHAT?
OTHERWISE WE'D LOSE YOU. SO WE'RE [redacted]KING IT NICE AND SLOW, SO THAT YOU CAN FOLLOW ALONG.
ENJOY THE BOOK. IT HAS LOTS OF PICTURES.
ALL RIGHT, YOU LITTLE--
GENTLEMEN, I COULDN'T HELP BUT OVER-HEAR...
MR. STONE! NOT LONG ENOUGH NO SEE.
BUT AARON HERE IS CORRECT. ALCHEMAX WANTS RESULTS.
ALCHEMAX CAN'T WANT ANYTHING, TY. IT'S A CORPORATION, A [redacted] "THING." ONLY HUMANS CAN HAVE HUMAN [redacted] AND HUMANS HAVE TO BE AWARE THAT RECKLESS TESTING ON HUMAN SUBJECTS WOULD BE--
MIKE, IF MY FATHER WERE ALIVE TODAY, YOU KNOW WHAT HE'D SAY?
"HELP, HELP, GET ME OUT OF THIS COFFIN!"
HE'D SAY CAUTION IS THE FIRST REFUGE OF THE COWARD.
AND HE'D SAY THAT BECAUSE--
HE LOVES THE SOUND OF HIS OWN VOICE?
BECAUSE IT WOULD BE TRUE. WHICH IS WHY WE'VE BROUGHT IN MR. SIMS HERE.
MIND TELLING ME WHAT SORT OF WARPED JOKE THIS IS?
NO JOKE. RATHER THAN FACE AGING 40 YEARS AS HIS PUNISH-MENT, MR. SIMS [redacted] FOR THE RAIDER PROGRAM.
THIS IS CRAZY. WE'RE NOT READY FOR HUMANS YET. MR. SIMS, IT'S FAR TOO DANGEROUS.
LOOK, DOC-- I WANT TO DO THIS. I REALLY, REALLY DON'T WANT THEM TO MAKE A DOODERING OLD MAN OUTTA ME. I GOT A CHANCE HERE TO GET MY SENTENCE COM-MUTED.
JUST... DO THE BEST JOB YA CAN FOR ME, OKAY?

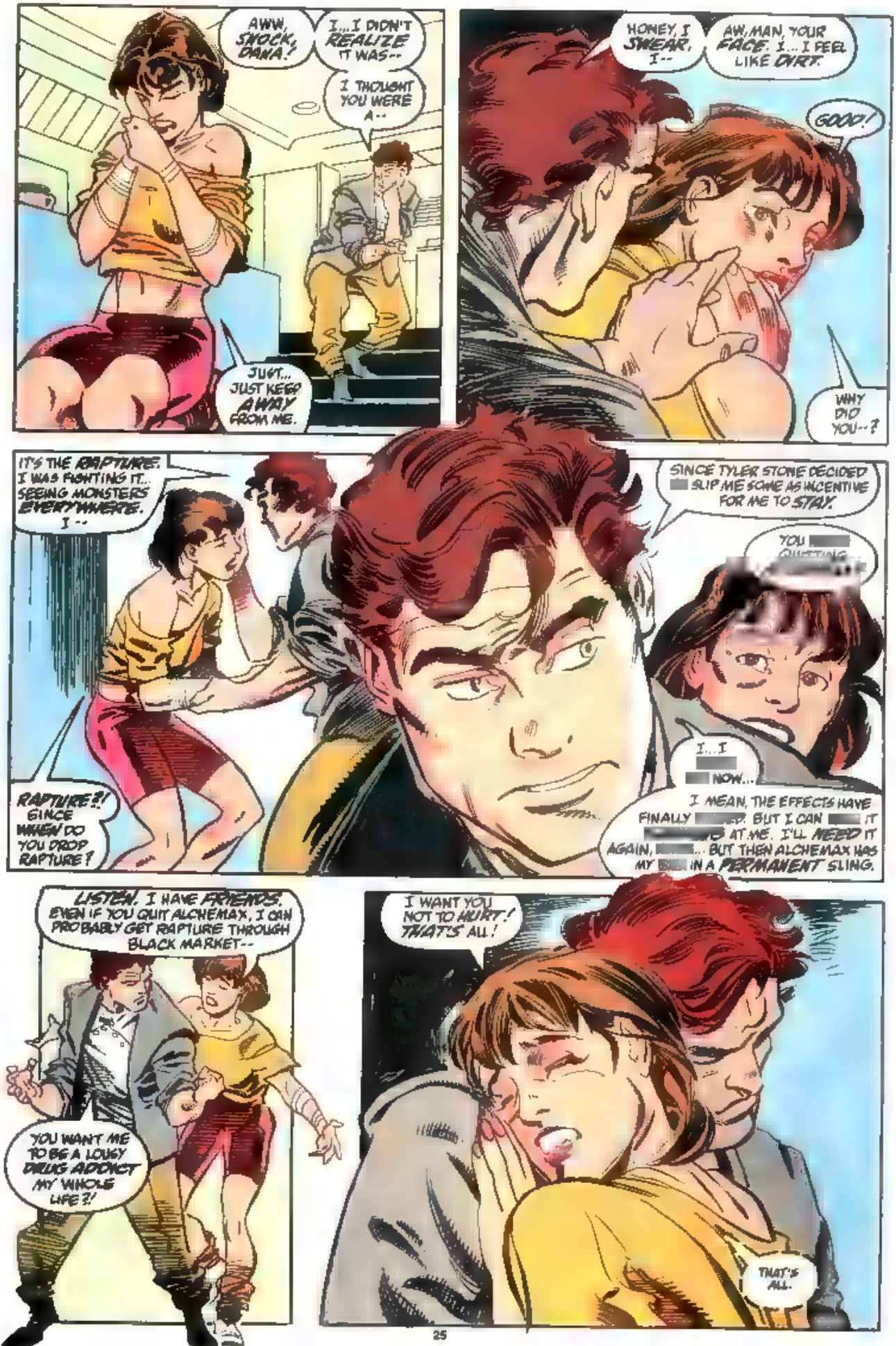
NICE HOW YOU STOOD UP TO Mr. STONE, GENIUS-BOY.
IF I WALK, STONE WOULD GO AHEAD WITHOUT ME. THEN SIMS' LIFE IS IN YOUR HANDS, AARON. THAT PUTS HIS CHANCES SOMEWHERE BETWEEN ZERO AND NONE.
I'M HIS ONLY SHOT.
Mr. SIMS, CAN YOU HEAR ME?
Y... YEAH.
WHAT [redacted] TRYING TO DO IS TINKER WITH YOUR GENETIC STRUCTURE. WE HAVE A VARIETY OF DIFFERENT IMPRINTS WE COULD BE USING.
AT THE MOMENT, I'M TRYING SOMETHING SIMPLE...SOMETHING THAT WOULD, IDEALLY, ONE YOU AUGMENTED STRENGTH.
WHAT ABOUT THAT SPIDER-IMPRINT PROGRAM YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT?
[redacted] STEP AT [redacted] TIME, AARON. I DON'T WANT TO TRY AND TOTALLY RE-WRITE THE MAN'S GENETIC MAKE-UP.
WE COULD END UP WITH A HIDEOUS, MUTATED FREAK.
OR EVEN WORSE... YOU.
ALL RIGHT, GENTLEMEN. LET'S BRING IT TO FULL POWER.
LIKE THE DESIGN OF THE TRANSFORMATION CHAMBER, AARON?
GOT IT OFF AN OLD HOLO... "THE FLY."
YOU'D LIKE IT.
IT'S ABOUT SOMEONE [redacted] INTO A TOTALLY [redacted] CREEP [redacted] COULD RELATE TO IT.
YOU CAN'T FOOL ME, O'HARA. YOU'RE KEEPING UP THE FLIP REMARKS, BUT YOU'RE TERRIFIED YOU'RE [redacted] TO FALL FLAT ON YOUR FACE THIS TIME.
WELL, YA GOT ME, AARON. [redacted] I AM, SCARED ABOUT A HUMAN LIFE AT RISK. WHAT COULD I HAVE BEEN THINKING?
OKAY, MEN. OPEN HER UP.
MR. SIMS? STILL WITH US?
NOW YOU'LL PROBABLY FEEL A FAIRLY SHARP TINGLING, THAT SHOULD PASS IN A COUPLE OF--

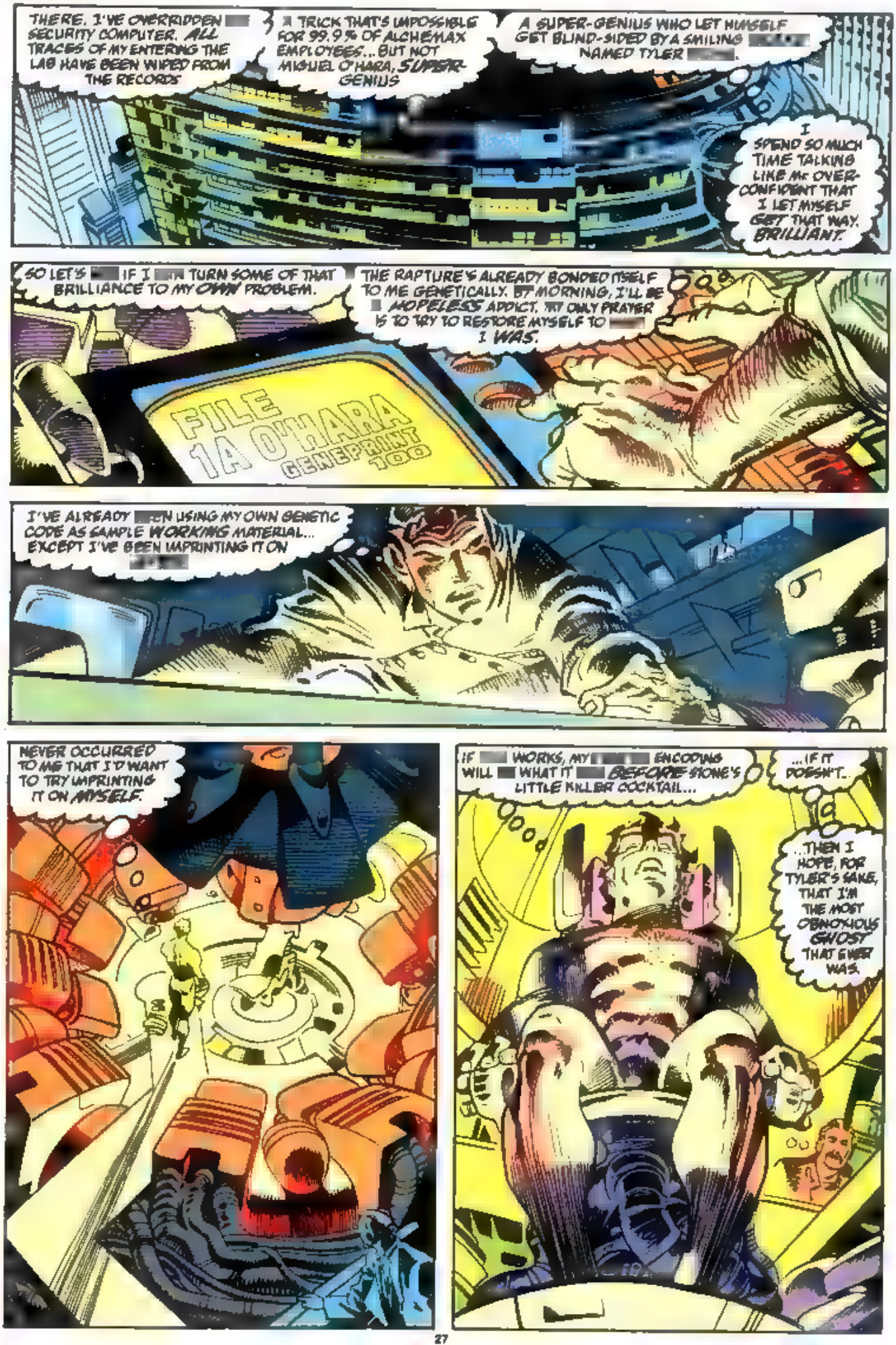
AAAAACK!
GRRRAHHHH
GET HIM ?Bachhh!
GET HIM OFF ME!
MR. SIMS, I'M SORRY! I TRIED! I--
WILL SOMEONE SHOCKIN' SHOOT HIM WITH SOMETHING?! I--
SIMS?
HMM. DEAD.
STILL, HE BROKE HIS RESTRAINTS EFFORTLESSLY. FROM AN ACCELERATED STRENGTH SCENARIO, THIS WAS VERY POSITIVE. VERY POSITIVE.


I'M GONE.
YOU NEED TO RELAX, MIKE.
THIS IS FROM MY PRIVATE STOCK. 1994 WAS AN EXCELLENT YEAR.
I SAID I'M DONE. I QUIT. I'M NOT GOING TO BE A PART OF ANOTHER INCIDENT LIKE TODAY'S. AND EVEN IF YOU CONTINUE THE WORK AFTER I'M GONE, AT LEAST I WON'T BE A PARTY TO IT.
ALCHEMAX HAS GROOMED YOU, MIKE. PAID FOR YOU, EDUCATED YOU. JUST AS WE DID YOUR FATHER.
HE WAS A BRILLIANT MAN, YOUR FATHER.
YOU CAN BILL ME.
MIKE... OBVIOUSLY YOU'VE MADE UP YOUR MIND. I CAN APPRECIATE THAT.
WHAT'S MORE... I CAN RESPECT THAT.
DON'T YOU BELIEVE, WE HERE AT ALCHEMAX THE INDUS WOULD HAVE ARE NOT HEARTLESS MONSTERS. OUR EMPLOYEES ARE CHERISHED PARTICIPANTS... NOT PRISONERS. YOU ARE PERFECTLY FREE TO LEAVE OUR LITTLE FAMILY, IF YOU WISH. WE'RE A BUSINESS, STALAG.
NOT DEAD THAT. BUT I ASSURE YOU THAT ROXXON, STARK-FUJIKAWA, SYNTHIA... ANYONE WHO CONTACTS US ABOUT YOU WILL RECEIVE NOTHING BUT THE HIGHEST RECOMMENDATION.
HERE'S TO A BRIGHT FUTURE.
OF COURSE... I'M STILL HOPING YOU'LL RECONSIDER.


TY, DID [redacted] JUST HAVE SYNAPTIC MELTDOWN IN THE LAST [redacted] MINUTES?
I'M LEAVING, REMEMBER? [redacted] AND Y'KNOW, NOW THAT I'VE MADE THE DECISION...
I FEEL MORE RELAXED THAN EVER.
YES, THAT WOULD PROBABLY BE BECAUSE OF MY PARTING GIFT. THE RAPTURE.
WH-WHAT?
THE RAPTURE, IN THE WINE YOU JUST DRANK. I'M [redacted] YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH IT.
A VERY HIGH-POWERED, MIND-EXPANDING HALLUCINOGEN. PERFECTLY LEGAL, OF COURSE. A NUMBER OF ALCHEMAX EMPLOYEES ARE ALREADY USERS...
BUT [redacted] RECORDS INDICATE YOU'D NEVER AVAILED YOURSELF OF IT. I THOUGHT MAYBE THE PROHIBITIVE EXPENSE HAD MADE YOU HESITATE, SO [redacted] THIS A PRESENT.
YOU... CREEPING PIECE OF...
NOW THAT I THINK OF IT... [redacted] YOU'VE PASSED ON IT [redacted] RAPTURE IS SO ADDICTIVE. ONCE IT'S IN YOUR SYSTEM, YOU [redacted] WAY YOU [redacted] OXYGEN TO BREATHE. WITHOUT RAPTURE, YOU'LL [redacted]
YOU WANT TO HIT ME, DON'T YOU? I WOULDN'T. [redacted] YOU'LL WANT [redacted] TO REMAIN [redacted] DISPOSED TOWARDS YOU...
ESPECIALLY SINCE ALCHEMAX IS [redacted] ONLY AUTHORIZED [redacted] DISTRIBUTOR. THAT'S PROBABLY ANOTHER REASON IT [redacted] NOTIFIEAL FOR YOU. YOU BEING SUCH AN INDEPENDENT SORT, MIKE... YOU'D NEVER WANT TO GIVE [redacted] YOUR ABILITY TO JUST WALK OUT.
YOU CAN STILL WALK AWAY, MIKE. BUT YOU WON'T LIKE THE CONSEQUENCES.
I'LL HAVE A CAR BRING YOU HOME. GET SOME REST... AND ENJOY THE RAPTURE. IF YOU FIGHT IT, IT CAN BE QUITE NASTY, [redacted] I'D JUST GIVE [redacted] IF I [redacted] YOU.
AND MIKE... HERE'S HOPING YOU CHOOSE TO [redacted] [redacted] ER OF THE ALCHEMAX FAMILY FOR SOME TIME TO COME.

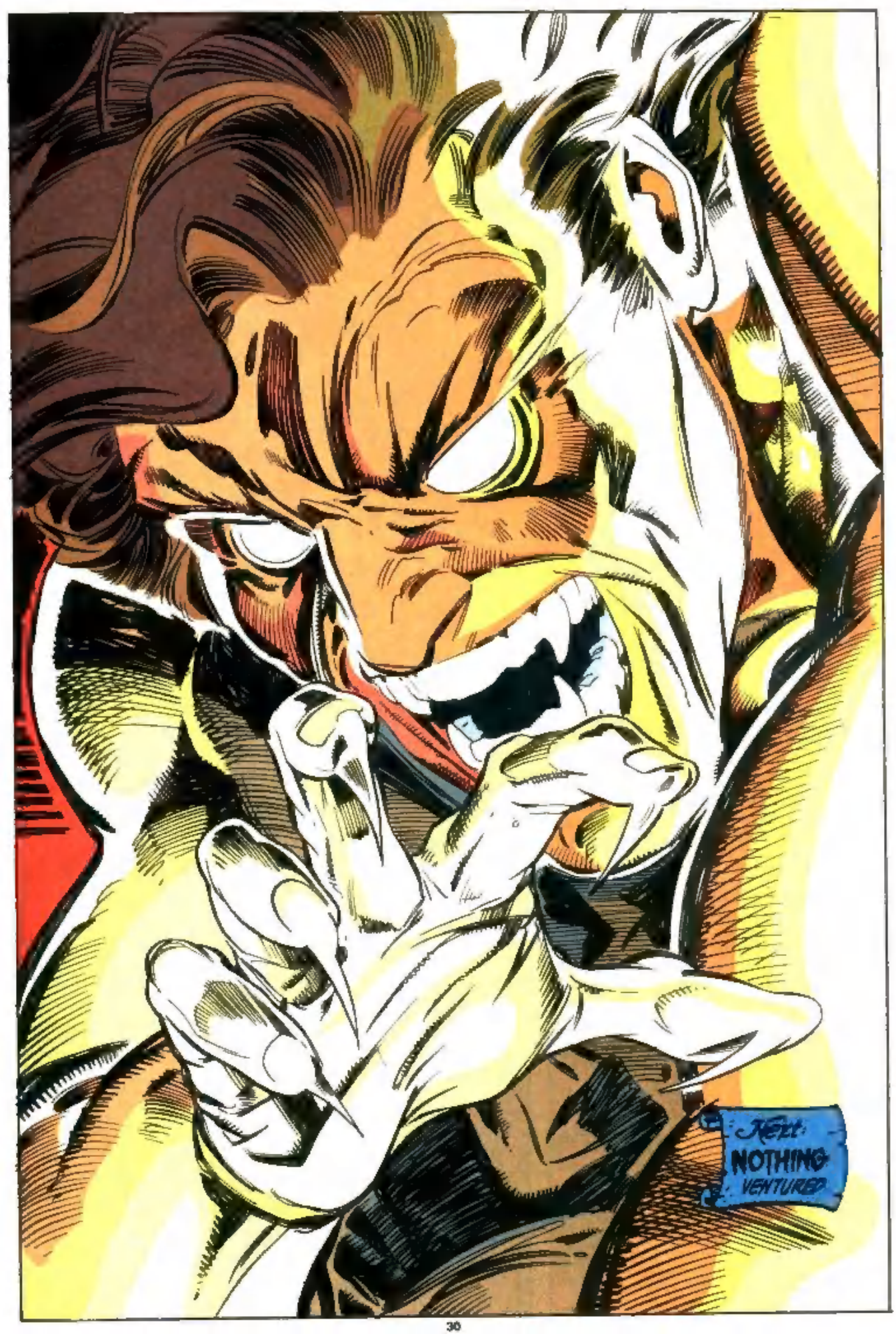

ONE TWO THREE FOUR
COME ON DANA, DO SOME MORE
DON'T SLOW DOWN, DON'T TAKE RESTS
THIS WILL HELP TO FIRM YOUR--
UHHHH...
MIGUEL! WHAT'S WRONG, LOVER? YOU'RE HOME EARLY!
ARE YOU SICK? SHOULD I--
FREEZE PROGRAM!
GET AWAY!
URRKKHHH!


AWW, SHOCK, DANA!
I...I DIDN'T REALIZE IT WAS--
I THOUGHT YOU WERE A--
JUST... JUST KEEP AWAY FROM ME.
HONEY, I SWEAR, I--
AW, MAN, YOUR FACE. I... I FEEL LIKE DIRT.
GOOD!
WHY DID YOU--?
IT'S THE RAPTURE. I WAS FIGHTING IT.. SEEING MONSTERS EVERYWHERE. I--
SINCE TYLER STONE DECIDED TO SLIP ME SOME AS INCENTIVE FOR ME TO STAY.
YOU [redacted] QUITTING
I...I [redacted] NOW...
I MEAN, THE EFFECTS HAVE FINALLY [redacted] BUT I CAN [redacted] IT [redacted] AT ME. I'LL NEED IT AGAIN, [redacted]... BUT THEN ALCHEMAX HAS MY [redacted] IN A PERMANENT SLING.
RAPTURE?! SINCE WHEN DO YOU DROP RAPTURE?
LISTEN. I HAVE FRIENDS. EVEN IF YOU QUIT ALCHEMAX, I CAN PROBABLY GET RAPTURE THROUGH BLACK MARKET--
YOU WANT ME TO BE A LOUSY DRUG ADDICT MY WHOLE LIFE?!
I WANT YOU NOT TO HURT! THAT'S ALL!
THAT'S ALL.


THERE. I'VE OVERRIDDEN [redacted] SECURITY COMPUTER. ALL TRACES OF MY ENTERING THE LAB HAVE BEEN WIPED FROM THE RECORDS
A TRICK THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR 99.9% OF ALCHEMAX EMPLOYEES... BUT NOT MIGUEL O'HARA, SUPER-GENIUS
A SUPER-GENIUS WHO LET HIMSELF GET BLIND-SIDED BY A SMILING [redacted] NAMED TYLER [redacted].
I SPEND SO MUCH TIME TALKING LIKE MR OVER-CONFIDENT THAT I LET MYSELF GET THAT WAY. BRILLIANT.
SO LET'S [redacted] IF I [redacted]N TURN SOME OF THAT BRILLIANCE TO MY OWN PROBLEM.
THE RAPTURE'S ALREADY BONDED ITSELF TO ME GENETICALLY. BY MORNING, I'LL BE [redacted] HOPELESS ADDICT. MY ONLY PRAYER IS TO TRY TO RESTORE MYSELF TO [redacted] I WAS.
FILE 1A O'HARA GENEPRINT 100
I'VE ALREADY [redacted]EN USING MY OWN GENETIC CODE AS SAMPLE WORKING MATERIAL... EXCEPT I'VE BEEN IMPRINTING IT ON [redacted]
NEVER OCCURRED TO ME THAT I'D WANT TO TRY IMPRINTING IT ON MYSELF.
IF [redacted] WORKS, MY [redacted] ENCODING WILL [redacted] WHAT IT [redacted] BEFORE STONE'S LITTLE KILLER COCKTAIL...
...IF IT DOESN'T...
...THEN I HOPE, FOR TYLER'S SAKE, THAT I'M THE MOST OBNOXIOUS GHOST THAT EVER WAS.

MIGUEL O'HARA, WORKING OVER-TIME.
FILE 1A O'HARA 50
FILE 47-A SPIDER 50
MY PUMPING UP THE LEVELS OF EVERY BLASTED PIECE OF EQUIPMENT IN THE IMPRINT SEQUENCE.
WHAT'S THIS BUTTON DO? POOR, DUMB OLD AARON DELGATO WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND YOUR GREAT CONCEPTS, WOULD I, O'HARA?
A PITY IF SOME-THING WENT WRONG... SOMETHING LIKE... SAY...
DOESN'T MUCH MATTER WHEN I'M IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT, THOUGH, DOES IT?!
WARNING. EQUIPMENT IS EXCEEDING RECOMMENDED SAFETY LEVELS. AUTOMATIC SHUTDOWN IN T MINUS 5 SECONDS...
WARNING
EXCEEDING RECOMMENDED SAFETY LIMITS
OVERRIDE IN EFFECT FILES MERGING
OVERRIDE! REPEAT, MANUAL OVERRIDE!
AAAARRRHHH

HAAH! HOW DID YOU LIKE THAT, Mr. GENIUS! Mr. SMART-MOUTH WISE-CRACKER! HOW DID--!
HUH?
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! STILL ALIVE--AND UNHARMED!
BUT HE DOESN'T KNOW I OVER-LOADED THE CIRCUITRY. I CAN USE THAT.
LATE NIGHT MAD-SCIENTIST THEATRICS, O'HARA? YOU'VE JUST BLOWN IT BIG TIME, BOY.
WHEN I TELL MR. STONE HOW YOU WRECKED THE EQUIPMENT IN SOME TEMPERAMENTAL TANTRUM, THAT'S GOING TO FINISH YOU.
THEN I'LL BE BACK IN CHARGE, DOING THINGS THE WAY THEY SHOULD BE...
TURN AROUND WHEN I SPEAK TO YOU, BOY! BEFORE I KICK YOUR BUTT FROM HERE TO--
--TO--


NOTHING VENTURED

ARACHNOPHILIA

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OUT OF MY HEAD

"Editing a science-fiction magazine is very much like walking a narrow and treacherous path atop a wall dividing two sheer precipices. At their foot, on the one side, lurks a pack of horrendously articulate and ferocious fans, waiting to snap and snarl at every slightest deviation from what each of them considers the classic norm.

"On the other, coiled and hissing, the science experts lie in wait, striking at every possible technical flaw the editor allows in print.

"If the wall falls away, the editor lands in both abysses to be torn apart in a savage tug-of-war."

Wish I'd said that.

You've guessed that wasn't *my* voice. It's part of an editorial from the August 1951 issue of a pulp called *Thrilling Wonder Stories*.

Sam Merwin, who wrote it, got it exactly right.

In our case, it was a question of how far we (that's the editorial "we") could "deviate from the classic norm." Creating a "first issue" of *any* Spider-Man title is a tough act to follow. But do we try to duplicate the Spider-Man whose adventures we know and follow avidly? Or strive to break new ground as we tell stories about the next century?

And what about that next century? How close is it to the Marvel Universe we're familiar with? How closely should it adhere to our expectations of the world of tomorrow? And above all, why did Marvel entrust its vision of the next hundred years to an editor who can't see far enough ahead to decide what's for lunch?

It's like stage fright. Imagine getting pushed out there *knowing* that for as many members of the audience you will please, that's as many as you'll tick off.

Well, the worst stage fright can be defeated by a good script, cast and crew. Here's ours:

If you're gonna write about science-fictional super heroes, get a guy who makes the *Times* best-seller list writing about 'em. A guy like PETER DAVID, for example.

RICK LEONARDI depicts the future so well, I'm beginning to suspect he has a time machine in his basement. AL WILLIAMSON has a list of credits longer than this editorial, and his favorite character of all time is probably Flash Gordon. So that counts as credentials.

We can't stray too far from home base, given that we've got a guy named Peter writing this book, and a guy named Parker lettering it. RICK PARKER, that is. And STEVE BUCCELLATO is considered like unto a demi-god in the coloring community. The competition points to the work of logo designer KEN LOPEZ when they want something done Marvel-style. Also, thanks to M. KRAIGER for designing the heading above, and ED LAZELLARI, DAN CARR, FRANK PERCY and JOHNNY GREENE for executing it so well. Nice job, guys.

We promise plenty of "thrilling wonder stories." It's now up to you "horrendously articulate and ferocious fans," to let us know how we're doing!

Enough already, Joey!
Let's give them a glimpse of what's ahead for 2099!

Here's a page from Spidey 2099 #2 – exciting stuff!

And be sure not to miss the next book in our new series – RAVAGE 2099 – on sale next month!
Sarra